LITERARY GOSSIP.

PRANG AND Co. have made a revolution in the valentine trade. Their valentine cards made on the plan of their Christmas cards are pretty and bright without being gaudy.

Mr. Austin Dobson is editing a volume of "Selections from Steele," at the request of the Regents of the Clarendon Press. Much new material will be utilized in the introductory biographical sketch.

ROBERTS BROTHERS of Boston announce a volume on "Harriet Martineau," in the "Famous Women" series by Mrs. F. Fenwick Miller; "Tarantella," a romance of German life by Mathilde Blind; "Flatland" an anonymous English satire; and "Daddy Darwin's Dovecot, "by Miss Ewing.

D. APPLETON AND Co. will publish immediately "The Money-Makers," an offset to "The Bread-Winners"; and the controversy between Herbert Spencer and Frederic Harrison on the nature and grounds of religion, which lately appeared in the Nineteenth Century and Popular Science Monthly.

If "The Money-Makers: A Social Parable" is as good as its author and his publishers, the Messrs. Appleton seem to think, it is going to make a sensation. A feature of the book will be its portraits of prominent men and women under a thin disguise. The author's name is to be a well-kept secret.

THE most recent candidates for the suffrages of the reading public are The Town, published in New York, and Vanity Fair, hailing from Cleveland, Ohio. They are both humorous and satirical, and each pays special attention to public amusements. The first-named is a small quarto, illustrated; *Vanity Fair* is a medium news size, and printed on pink paper. Each paper makes its hebdomodal appearance on Saturdays.

THE numbers of *The Living Age* for the weeks ending January 17th and 24th contain articles entitled "Ancient Palestine and Modern Exploration"; "The Crown of Thorns articles entitled "Ancient Palestine and Modern Exploration"; "The Crown of Thorns that Budded"; "The Future of the Peerage"; "The Black Death in East Anglia"; "Character and Poetry of Madame de Sévigné"; "The Battle of Otterburn"; "Notes on Popular English"; "Servants Old and New"; "Napoleon the Third"; "French Duelling"; "Recollections of Mark Pattison"; "Anne Bergunion, the Blind Woman's Friend"; "Cyprus Locusts, and Some Indian Herbs and Poisons"; with instalments of "Even with This," "Delphine," "The New Manager," and "Wild Säfing," and poetry.

The Monthly Interpreter is the title of a new expository magazine published by Messrs. T. & T. Clark of Edinburgh and Messrs. Kegan Paul, Trench and Co., London. It can hardly be doubted that the present is in a very eminent degree the age of the critical and scholarly study of the Sacred Scriptures. Every school of thought recognizes the importance of such study. It is therefore with sincere satisfaction that we welcome a new publication (of which the third number has just appeared) in which the Scriptures are subjected to careful and critical examination in a free and reverent spirit. Nothing but good can result from studies conducted in such a spirit. Among the contributors are the well-know names of Dean Plumptre, Dr. Bruce, Prebendary Gibson, Dr. Morrison, Mr. Exile (the Editor), and others.

THE English Society for the Abolition of the State Church has signalized the re-opening of its electoral campaign by the publication of a work which may be described as a Liberationist's vade mecum. In this volume the candid inquirer will find all that he requires, while it will serve as an arsenal for those who are taking a militant part in the The breadth of ground it covers may be gathered from the following list of the cause. The breath of ground it covers may be gathered from the following list of the subjects on which it treats: The "Religious Argument"; the "Political Argument"; "Historical and Legal Position of the English Establishment"; "Church Property"; the "Ecclesiastical Commission"; "Church Patronage"; the "Practical Failure of the English Establishment"; the "Church of England in Wales"; the "Established Church of Scotland"; "What is and is not involved in Disestablishment"; the "Test of Experience"; "Progress of the Movement.

THE Critic called attention recently to the number of initials lost, strayed or stolen from the names of well-known writers, and mentioned, amongst other instances, the dropping of the W. that used to stand on guard between the Christian name and surname of the English poet and lecturer now visiting this country. At least one reader of The Crtic failed to see the note in question, or seeing it failed to read it, or reading it failed to store it up in his memory as an invaluable possession for all time; for a letter addressed to that journal contains the following query: "Is Professor Edmund Gosse a relative of E. W. Gosse?" Apropos of which is this little anecdote: When Mr. Gosse went over to Camden to see Walt Whitman, the "old gray" inquired "What have you done with your W., my friend?" To which Mr. Gosse replied, "I have sent it down to Hades." "Ah!" exclaimed Walt, "when it gets there it will meet my er/"

"WE have very few new books under way," a New York publisher is reported as saying, "and shall not hasten to add to their number. It is simply out of the question to suppose that the public will pay \$1.00 or \$1.50 for books by American authors when they can purchase reprints of all new English novels for ten or twenty cents. In the last few years we have printed but six American novels, five of which proved failures, not through lack of merit, but for the reason above mentioned. " Commenting upon this wail *The Literary* World says: "We do not know what publisher is referred to in this, but we presume that the true reason of the failure of these five American novels is that they were unworthy of better treatment than they received. We have almost a suspicion that we could point out the very books referred to. In nine cases out of ten "unsuccessful" American stories are those which are unfavourably criticized in the journals of the day, and which excite no comment or interest among novel readers. Give us good novels, publishers, and the public will buy them.

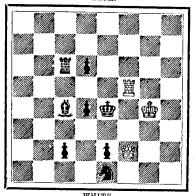
IT is not generally known that the London Times attained its hundredth year on the The prevailing notion is that the year in which it was founded was 1st of January, 1885. 1788, the truth being that the nine hundred and fortieth number of the journal appeared on the first day in that year. The mistake is due to confounding a change in the title with the foundation of the journal. The actual facts are set forth in an article which Mr. Fraser Rae contributes to the January number of the Nineteenth Century. Amongst other things which will attract attention in that article is a verbatim copy of the inscription on the tablets affixed in honour of the conduct of the Times in the case of Bogle v. Lawson, in 1841, by a committee of bankers and merchants of the city, in the Royal Exchange, and over the entrance to the Times printing office. As these tablets are placed where the inscriptions on them cannot easily be read, and as copies of these inscriptions are not given in the works dealing with the city, the copy in the Nineteenth Century is a piece of historical information which will be novel to most readers,

CHESS.

**All communications intended for this department should be addressed "Chess Editor," office of The When, Toronto.

PROBLEM No. 77. By N. SARDOTSCH. Trieste.

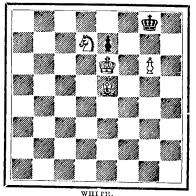
(From Nuova Rivista.) BLACK.



White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 78. By John McGregor, Toronto. (From Southern Trade Gazette.)

BLACK



White to play and mate in three moves

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. A., Montreal.—Must have gone astray. Will write you again. R. H. H., Winnipeg.—O. K. See solution below.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLE M

No. 61. 1 Q Q Kt 1, solved by W. A., E. B. G., S. C., D. J. W.

. 61. 1 Q Q Kt 1, solved by W. A., E. B. G., S. C., D. J. W. 62. 1 Kt K Kt 4, solved by W. A., E. B. 63. 1 Q R 8, solved by W. A., E. B. G., W. J. McM. 64. 1 R Kt 5, W. A., E. B. G. 65. 1 Q Q sq ch, 2. Q Kt 4 ch, 3 Q x B ch, 4. Q x P ch, 4. R x Q mate.

66. 1 Kt K R 3 solved by W. A., E. B. G. 67. 1 B K 3 ch, 2, K B 5, 3, K Q 4, 4, Kt Q 2, 4, K dis. mate.

68. 1 Kt Q 4 solved by W. A., E. B. G.

69. Impossible,

70. 1 Q $\mathbf R$ 8 solved by W. A., $\mathbf E$. B. G.

MANHATTAN CHESS CLUB-CAPT. MACKENZIE GIVES ODDS OF P. AND TWO MOVES.

(Remove Black's KBP.)

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
Mr. Simonson.	Capt. Mackenzie.	Mr. Simonson.	Capt. Mackenzie.
1. P K 4 2. P Q 4 3. B Q 3 4. P x P 5. Q R 5 ch 6. P K 5 7. K 2 8. Kt K B 3 9. Castles 10. Kt x B 11. B Q 2 (c) 12. Q x X t 13. R K 8q 14. Q K 4 15. Q x Q Kt P 16. Kt B 3	Kt Q B 3 P K 4 Kt x P Kt B 2 P K Kt 3 B Kt 2 Q K 2 (a) B x P (b) Kt x Kt Kt x B P Q 3 B K 3 K B 2 Kt B 8	17. B Kt5 18. B x Kt 19. Q K B ch 20. Kt K 4 (d) 21. Q B 3 ch 22. Kt H 6 (e) 23. Kt Q 5 24. R K 7 ch 25. Kt x Q 26. Q Kt 7 ch 28. Q Kt 7 ch 29. P B 3 ch 30. Q Kt 3 ch 31. P B 3 dis ch and	PRR3 KxB2 BB4 KB2 BB4 KB2 QQ8q PB4 KXKt KX3 KQ4 KK35 KKQ55 KK65

NOTES.

(a) Considering the nature of the odds given, Black has now a very fair position. His next move is a bad one, and compromises his game.

(b) Ill advised. Kt K R 3 preparing to castle should have been played.

(c) Quiet, but very effective.

(d) Threatening to win the exchange at least by Q Q B 3 ch.

(e) Mr. Simonson plays capitally throughout, but his manœuvering here is especailly ingenious.—New York Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic Journal.

CHESS ITEMS.

INTEREST in chess continues to grow among the ladies. Eight of them are contestants in the Elmira Telegram solver's tourneys

REICHHELM suggests the reason that "the first-class players of the present day are far shead of Morphy" is because Morphy is dead.

ABOUT thirty of the leading chess editors of this continent, including W. Steinitz and Capt. Mackenzie, will be represented in the group picture. The Mirror announces that copies of the picture will be procurable at 75 cents each.

Nuova Rivista Degli Scacchi, the leading Italian chess journal, has suspended publication, we regret to learn.

A London correspondent of the Irish Sportsman has been badly shocked by discovering that a couple of problemists, whose scientific combinations had carried him by storm, turned out to be plebeians—one, a junk dealer, the other, a dustman, and commends their judgment in publishing their compositions under assumed names. This correspondent has all the elements of a thorough snob. Perhaps he fills the idea of a gentleman, which an English snob, visiting this country, defined as "one who does nothing for a living," and was informed by a matter-of-fact Yankee, "We call such loafers over here."—Trade Guzette.

And now Rev. W. Wayte shows that "Brilliants I."—Trade Guzette.

And now Rev. W. Wayte shows that "Philidor's Legacy" was printed as early as 1497.—

THE Cincinnati Commercial says, "Dr. Zukertort is in a fair way to become known as a constitutional and temperamental foe to truth."

THE Copenhagen Chess Club has this winter established a chess school for beginners, which numbers about twenty pupils.

DR. ZUKERTORT'S problem, with which he floored Max Lauge and the Leinzig amateurs, has now become an end game, and occurred in actual play between himself and a New York amateur. The Commercial says, "The story is not funny, but it is a daisy for geographical activity."—Trade Gasetse.

MR. STEINITZ is receiving considerable abuse from some of the more fiery American editors because he dares to express the opinion that though Morphy was stronger than any man of his day, he was not infallible. The peculiarity of the abuse is that, so far as we have seen, none of the irate scribes have yet disproved the champion's assertions.